title.) The bill was introduced on January 4, referred to the Agriculture Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Dierks, to open on LB 197.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, LB 197 is a statutory housekeeping bill brought at the request of the Department of Agriculture. It amends provisions of the Nebraska Poultry Disease Control Act found at 2-3001 of our statutes, and the Nebraska Livestock Auction Act beginning at Section 54-1156. The Nebraska Livestock Market Act, a measure which governs the operation of the Omaha stockyards is outright repealed. Sections 1 through 4 of the bill updates the provisions of the poultry disease control statutes. Through the authority of these statutes, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture coordinates with the National Poultry Improvement Plan, called the NPIP, administrated by the animal and plant health inspection service, that's called APHIS, of USDA. For the members benefit, I have asked the Pages to distribute a sheet which provide a backdrop about the NPIP. The NPIP, the Nebraska Poultry Improvement Plan, is essentially a national standard establishing best management practices for the control and prevention of poultry disease. Under the NPIP, APHIS adopted disease monitoring and operating protocols for participating egg and poultry producers. The states administer the programs and generally adopt the program standards developed by APHIS through rule and regulation of the state agency, although states are free to adopt more stringent standards. Participation by the state's individual producers is voluntary, but participation enables producers to earn a type of certification that their products are disease free or produced in compliance with the disease management practices of the NPIP. Participating producers may market their products under emblems that signify this fact. The provisions of the NPIP are changed from time to time based upon the recommendations of the national plan conferences attended by delegates representing the industry and regulatory officials. The latest updates to the plan were adopted by final rule of the FDA as published in the February 2000 edition of the Federal Register. With that